

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01479 311300Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 /091 W

-----057991 010331Z /17

R 311000Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9951

INFO USUN NEW YORK 806

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, KN, KS, CE

SUBJ: NORTH KOREAN (NK) VISIT TO SRI LANKA

REF: STATE 060433

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREAN (NK) TEAM HEADED BY DEPUTY MINISTER LEE JONG MOK WOULD ARRIVE COLOMBO APRIL 2 AND SPECULATED THAT LEE WOULD ASK TO REOPEN NK EMBASSY IN COLOMBO. TEAM ALSO EXPECTED TO DISCUSS NON-ALIGNED MATTERS IN PREPARATION FOR KABUL NACC MEETING.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICIAL TOLD CHARGE THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD ASKED TO VISIT COLOMBO STARTING APRIL 2 BUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED WAS DEPARTING FOR A GOOD-WILL VISIT TO INDIA FOLLOWING DAY. NK VISIT THEREFORE HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 8. REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF NK OPENING MISSION HERE, MFA OFFICIAL SAID NK'S WILL ASK AS THEY ALWAYS DO BUT THAT HE EXPECTS GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL) POSITION TO REMAIN UNCHANGED - THE NK'S CAN HANDLE WHAT BUSINESS THEY HAVE WITH SRI LANKA FROM NEW DELHI.

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3. CHARGE DISCUSSED IMPENDING NK VISIT WITH REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) EMBASSY. ROK'S ARE UNCONCERNED AND BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF GSL ALLOWING NK TO RETURN TO COLOMBO. ALTHOUGH NOTHING TANGIBLE HAS HAPPENED YET, GSL IS BANKING HEAVILY ON ROK ASSISTANCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND WILL NOT DO ANYTHING TO ANTAGONIZE THE ROK.

4. WE SHARE ROK EMBASSY ASSESSMENT THAT NK WILL MAKE LITTLE  
HEADWAY WITH GSL ON ANY ISSUES THAT MIGHT NEGATIVELY AFFECT  
GSL-ROK RELATIONS.  
DEBOLD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NONALIGNED NATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
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**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** NORTH KOREAN (NK) VISIT TO SRI LANKA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014